

**An interim key to the Western Australian species of *Hibbertia*  
(Dilleniaceae)**

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**Abstract**

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**Introduction**

Following a series of papers on the taxonomy of the genus *Hibbertia* Andr. and the publication of many new species and infraspecific taxa (Toelken & Wheeler 2002, Wheeler 2000 a–b, 2002 a–e, 2004 a–c), existing keys to the genus by Bentham (1863) and Grieve (1998) have become out of date. An interim key is provided here prior to the ‘Flora of Australia’ treatment of the family that is still some years away.

Several taxa in the key are referred to only by informal phrase names or are annotated as being variants. Other taxa belong to complexes which are as yet unresolved. *Hibbertia exasperata*, *Hibbertia rostellata*, *Hibbertia nutans* and *Hibbertia uncinata* belong to such an unresolved complex and are all referred to in this key as *Hibbertia exasperata* group.

**Key to the genus *Hibbertia* in Western Australia**

- 1. Stamens all on one side of 2 carpels (sometimes some staminodes occur opposite the stamens)
- 2. Flowers in a several-flowered spike
- 3. Sepals, bracts and young leaves glabrous or with minute stellate and hooked hairs ..... **H. spicata**
- 3. Sepals, bracts and young leaves with fairly long coarse simple hairs, sometimes also with underlying minute stellate hairs
- 4. Hairs white. Stamens few (8–10) in few rows ..... **H. polystachya**
- 4. Hairs brownish. Stamens many (28–43) in several rows (Kimberley region only) ..... **H. ledifolia**
- 2. Flowers solitary or clustered in the leaf axils
- 5. Flowers stalked
- 6. Carpels hairy or scaly

7. Leaves strongly pungent or gradually tapered and spine-tipped
  8. Sepals with scales or scale-like stellate hairs
    9. Leaf with recurved spiny tip ..... *H. eatoniae*
    9. Leaf with straight spiny tip
      10. Flowers 8–15 mm diam. Upper leaf surface smooth ..... *H. lepidocalyx* subsp. *lepidocalyx*
      10. Flowers 15–25 mm diam. Upper leaf surface tuberculate ..... *H. lepidocalyx* subsp. *tuberculata*
  8. Sepals glabrous or with hairs, not scales
    11. Leaf tip recurved. Carpels 4-ovulate ..... *H. ancistrophylla*
    11. Leaf tip straight, not recurved. Carpels 2-ovulate
      12. Sepals spine-tipped. Plant usually erect
        13. Sepals with dense minute stellate hairs (sometimes also hooked hairs). Leaves not usually spreading as far as 90 degrees to the stem
          14. Midrib of leaf unusually enlarged on lower surface and protruding beyond leaf surface. Peduncle up to 4 mm long. Outer sepals with mucro to 4 mm long
            15. Young branchlets densely woolly. Stamens 5. Sepals without hooked hairs ..... *H. mucronata*
            15. Young branchlets with tiny stellate hairs. Stamens 5–8. Sepals with hooked hairs ..... *H. hamulosa*
          14. Midrib of leaf not unusually enlarged. Peduncle 6–15 mm long. Sepals with mucro up to 0.5 mm long ..... *H. turleyana*
        13. Sepals appearing glabrous but with very sparse and very minute stellate or semi-stellate hairs. Leaves very rigid and usually at 90 degrees to the stem ..... *H. ulicifolia*
      12. Sepals obtuse to acute, not or scarcely spine-tipped. Often a small cushion-like plant ..... *H. acerosa*
  7. Leaves not strongly pungent, but sometimes with a short mucro or a blunt or hair-like point
    16. Leaf tip recurved
      17. Leaf thick, linear, much longer than wide, erect or spreading with tightly revolute margins
        18. Sepals glabrous or almost so, sometimes with sparse minute stellate hairs, midrib of sepal not or only slightly pronounced
          19. Leaves with straight hairs or hooked hairs ..... *H. avonensis*
          19. Leaves glabrous or almost so, or with occasional stellate hairs
            20. Apparent margin of leaf somewhat acute, surface sparsely tuberculate, apex distinctly recurved
              21. Leaf 8–25 mm long ..... *H. lineata*
              21. Leaf 2.5–12 mm long ..... *H. recurvifolia*
            20. Apparent leaf margin rounded, surface very minutely papillose, apex not or only slightly recurved ..... *H. papillata*
          18. Sepals densely stellate-hairy and with pronounced midrib ..... *H. verrucosa*
        17. Leaf ovate, very thick, almost as wide as long, downturned with tightly revolute margins ..... *H. microphylla*
      16. Leaf tip not distinctly recurved
        22. Leaves glabrous or the upper surface glabrous or glabrescent

- 23. Leaves 13–55 mm long, slender, lacking a terminal point.  
Stamens 17–25, staminodes several in a row outside the  
fertile stamens. (Kimberley region only) ..... **H. hooglandii**
- 23. Leaves 1.5–12 mm long, with a blunt terminal point. Stamens about 10,  
sometimes with a few staminodes each side of the fertile stamens
- 24. Sepals glabrous
- 25. Carpels 3 or 4-ovulate. Bracts broadly ovate and cordate. Leaf  
margins revolute to a sunken midrib. Staminodes present ..... **H. stenophylla**
- 25. Carpels 2-ovulate. Bracts narrowly oblong to linear or subulate.  
Leaf margins revolute to a swollen midrib. Staminodes absent ..... **H. gracilipes**
- 24. Sepals hairy, often minutely so
- 26. Sepals with minute stellate hairs. Upper leaf surface glabrous.  
Carpels 2-ovulate ..... **H. papillata**
- 26. Sepals with uncinatate and often stellate hairs. Upper leaf  
surface with very occasional hooked hairs when young.  
Carpels 4-ovulate ..... **H. ancistrotricha**
- 22. Leaves with stellate and/or simple hairs, sometimes with hooked hairs
- 27. Stellate hairs absent, or if present very few
- 28. Flower stalks single
- 29. Carpels 2-ovulate. Staminodes often present, 2 or 3 each side of the  
fertile stamens. Sepals glabrous or with simple, straight or uncinatate hairs
- 30. Sepals glabrous or with a few appressed hairs. Bract below  
flower ovate to broadly ovate ..... **H. avonensis**
- 30. Sepals with uncinatate and straight hairs. Bract below  
flower linear ..... **H. diamesogenos**
- 29. Carpels 4-ovulate. Staminodes absent. Sepals with  
uncinatate and stellate hairs ..... **H. ancistrotricha**
- 28. Flower stalks in a dense cluster arising from a cluster of leaves ..... **H. sp. tathra**
- 27. Stellate hairs present, dense but often minute and also often  
with longer simple hairs
- 31. Leaves flat, elliptic to obovate
- 32. Leaves with long simple hairs as well as minute stellate hairs  
on undersurface ..... **H. silvestris**
- 32. Leaves with stellate hairs and scales only ..... **H. hypericoides** (northern variant)
- 31. Leaves with slightly to strongly recurved margins  
appearing linear or narrowly oblong
- 33. All sepals with prominent midrib ..... **H. verrucosa**
- 33. Sepals, at least inner ones without a very prominent midrib
- 34. Leaves 6–25 mm long ..... **H. hypericoides**
- 34. Leaves 20–50 mm long ..... **H. furfuracea**
- 6. Carpels glabrous
- 35. Flower stalks up to 10 mm long, usually straight. Styles 2–3 mm long.  
Leaf midrib swollen and protruding on lower surface ..... **H. psilocarpa**
- 35. Flower stalks 10–25 mm long, greatly recurved, more or less sigmoid.  
Styles 4–5 mm long. Leaf midrib not swollen ..... **H. andrewsiana**
- 5. Flowers sessile or sub-sessile
- 36. Carpels hairy
- 37. Leaf apex more or less obtuse

- 38. Leaves with sparse but conspicuously long spreading hairs.  
     Sepals more or less glabrous ..... **H. sp. Mt. Lesueur**
- 38. Leaves glabrous or with short more or less appressed hairs.  
     Sepals glabrous or with short appressed hairs
- 39. Leaves and also sometimes sepals with short hairs ..... **H. crassifolia**
- 39. Leaves and sepals glabrous or with minute stellate to semi-stellate hairs
- 40. Bracts narrowly ovate. Carpels 2-ovulate ..... **H. aurea**
- 40. Bracts broadly ovate and cordate. Carpels 3 or 4-ovulate ..... **H. stenophylla**
- 37. Leaf apex prominently acute or pungent
- 41. Young branchlets woolly. Fertile stamens 5, staminodes absent  
     or 5-20 outside the stamens
- 42. Stamens 5, staminodes absent ..... **H. mucronata**
- 42. Fertile stamens 5, staminodes 5–20 outside the stamens ..... **H. charlesii**
- 41. Young branchlets not woolly. Fertile stamens 8–11, staminodes  
     absent or a few each side of the stamens
- 43. Midrib of lower leaf surface enlarged, prominent and protruding  
     beyond level of the revolute leaf margins
- 44. Leaf apex straight or almost so. Carpels 4(5)-ovulate ..... **H. carinata**
- 44. Leaf apex strongly recurved. Carpels usually 2-ovulate ..... **H. ancistrophylla**
- 43. Midrib of lower leaf surface not unusually enlarged, level with  
     or sunken below the level of the revolute leaf margins
- 45. Sepals with simple hairs
- 46. Sepals pilose with long hairs ..... **H. axillibarba**
- 46. Sepals very densely hairy with silky hairs ..... **H. pachyphylla**
- 45. Sepals almost glabrous, sometimes with minute stellate hairs
- 47. Leaves very thick, almost cylindric 4–12 mm long, tip rounded  
     but with a short hard spine. Sepals 4–7 mm long ..... **H. stowardii**
- 47. Leaves flat or compressed with recurved margins, mostly  
     10–25 mm long and gradually tapered at the tip, acute to  
     mucronate. Sepals 6–9 mm long ..... **H. aurea**
- 36. Carpels glabrous
- 48. Midrib of leaf not or scarcely enlarged. Bract linear. Carpels 2-ovulate ..... **H. oligantha**
- 48. Midrib of leaf distinctly enlarged. Bract ovate. Carpels 3–8-ovulate ..... **H. psilocarpa**
- 1. Stamens all around the (2)3-5(15) carpels
- 49. Inflorescence branched and apparently leafless ..... **H. conspicua**
- 49. Flowers solitary or clustered in the leaf axils
- 50. Stamens apparently free or almost so, sometimes fused into a ring at the very base
- 51. Flowers stalked
- 52. Carpels 2 or 3
- 53. Carpels 3, glabrous. (South-west and Pilbara regions)
- 54. Leaves and sepals softly hairy ..... **H. inconspicua**
- 54. Leaves and sepals glabrous
- 55. Leaves slender, 0.5–5 mm wide and tapered at base, not surrounding the stem
- 56. Flowers orange or yellow. Stamens 10–15. Leaves linear,  
     15–25 mm long ..... **H. stellaris**
- 56. Flowers yellow. Stamens very numerous. Leaves very narrowly  
     elliptic, 40–70 mm long ..... **H. glaberrima**
- 55. Leaves 5–15 mm wide, oblong, not tapered at base but  
     surrounding the stem. .... **H. nymphaea**



- 53. Carpels 2 or 3, covered with tiny scales. (Kimberley region)
  - 57. Carpels 3. Sepals scaly, the margin fringed with pale or dark hairs ..... *H. echiifolia*
  - 57. Carpels 2. Sepals scaly, sometimes fringed
    - 58. Leaves folded lengthwise ..... *H. lepidota*
    - 58. Leaves flat
      - 59. Low shrub with indumentum of fringed scales ..... *H. sp. A* (Kimberley Flora)
      - 59. Shrub to 2m with indumentum of soft stellate hairs ..... *H. oblongata*
- 52. Carpels (4)5, or 10–15
  - 60. Carpels glabrous
    - 61. Leaves thin, flat, not spine-tipped
      - 62. Leaves silky, silvery, narrow, tapered towards the base.
        - Flowers often clustered ..... *H. potentilliflora*
      - 62. Leaves glabrous, green, broad, or if narrow then stem-clasping at base. Flowers usually single
        - 63. Leaves perfoliate (ie leaf completely surrounding stem) ..... *H. perfoliata*
        - 63. Leaves amplexicaul (stem-clasping at their base)
          - 64. Leaves broadly elliptic to circular ..... *H. porongurupensis*
          - 64. Leaves ovate or very narrowly ovate to linear
            - 65. Leaves very narrowly ovate to linear ..... *H. cunninghamii*
            - 65. Leaves ovate to narrowly ovate ..... *H. amplexicaulis*
      - 61. Leaves thick with recurved margins, spine-tipped ..... *H. exasperata* group
    - 60. Carpels hairy
      - 66. Carpels 5–15 (usually 10). Leaves with 5–10 pairs of teeth.
        - Bract one, narrow ..... *H. grossulariifolia*
      - 66. Carpels (4)5. Leaves entire or with 1–3 pairs of teeth. Bracts several, dark, broad and papery
        - 67. Erect to sprawling plant. Leaves narrowly oblong, densely hairy with spreading hairs, margin entire or with very occasional teeth. Flowers 20–35 mm in diameter ..... *H. montana*
        - 67. Sprawling plant. Leaves obovate to elliptic, with dense tiny erect hairs and a few longer spreading hairs, margin with 1–3 pairs of teeth. Flowers 40–65 mm in diameter long-stalked ..... *H. lasiopus*
  - 51. Flowers sessile or almost so
    - 68. Carpels glabrous
      - 69. Carpels 5
        - 70. Leaf tip pungent ..... *H. exasperata* group
        - 70. Leaf not pungent ..... *H. lividula*
      - 69. Carpels (2)3
        - 71. Sepals glabrous or almost so, but sometimes margin ciliolate
          - 72. Stamens numerous, more than 30. Leaves with long straight hairs ..... *H. mylnei*
          - 72. Stamens 10–20. Leaves glabrous or with short curled hairs
            - 73. Leaves with curled white hairs ..... *H. inclusa*
            - 73. Leaves glabrous
              - 74. Leaves thin, flat, ovate to elliptic, narrowly obovate or narrowly oblong, 6–15 mm long. Flowers sessile
                - 75. Leaves dimorphic, basal leaves much longer and narrower than the ovate to elliptic floral leaves ..... *H. glomerata* subsp. *glomerata*
                - 75. Leaves all similar in size and shape, narrowly obovate to narrowly oblong

76. Sepals apiculate. Leaves narrowly obovate ..... **H. glomerata** subsp. **wandoo**  
 76. Sepals obtuse. Leaves narrowly oblong .... **H. glomerata** subsp. **darlingensis**
74. Leaves thick with margin revolute to the midrib, narrowly oblong. Flowers on very short stalks ..... **H. glabriuscula**
71. Sepals hairy
77. Hairs on calyx golden brown ..... **H. drummondii**  
 77. Hairs on calyx white to grey
78. Leaves 2–6 mm long, thick, with margin revolute to the midrib ..... **H. glabriuscula**  
 78. Leaves 5–50 mm long, thin, flat
79. Leaves entire
80. Leaves silvery ..... **H. argentea**  
 80. Leaves green to bluish green or grey-green
81. Hairs on sepals dense, appressed ..... **H. commutata**  
 81. Hairs on sepals few and strong, spreading, conspicuous ..... **H. pilosa**
79. Leaves toothed
82. Leaves with only 1–3 teeth each side ..... **H. pilosa**  
 82. Leaves with several teeth each side
83. Teeth of leaves serrate ..... **H. serrata**  
 83. Teeth of leaves crenate ..... **H. serrata** (Darling Range variant)
68. Carpels hairy
84. Leaves spine-tipped. Carpels stellate-hairy, 6–10-ovulate.  
 Bracts inconspicuous, leaf-like
85. Leaves straight, 10–20 mm long. Sepals 12–16 mm long.  
 Carpels (2)3 with (8)10 ovules ..... **H. graniticola**
85. Leaves curved, 4–8 mm long. Sepals 5–9 mm long.  
 Carpels 2 with 6–8 ovules ..... **H. arcuata**
84. Leaves obtuse to acute, not spine-tipped. Carpels with simple hairs,  
 2-ovulate. Bracts conspicuous, black and papery
86. Flowers orange
87. Petals broad. Anthers yellow or black, obovate, more  
 than 0.5 mm wide. Carpels 5 ..... **H. miniata**  
 87. Petals distinctly narrowed at base. Anthers yellow, linear,  
 less than 0.5 mm wide. Carpels 3 ..... **H. selkii**
86. Flowers yellow
88. Flowers sessile. Leaves obovate to elliptic, sometimes narrowly so. Carpels 3–5  
 89. Carpels 3 or 4. Sepals with very closely appressed hairs.  
 Flowers 15–25 mm across ..... **H. ovata**  
 89. Carpels 5. Sepals with more or less appressed hairs. Flowers 30–65 mm across
90. Leaves narrowly elliptic to elliptic ..... **H. miniata**  
 90. Leaves obovate-elliptic ..... **H. quadricolor**
88. Some flowers at least shortly stalked particularly in fruit. Leaves  
 oblong. Carpels 4 or 5 ..... **H. montana**
50. Stamens fused into fascicles, occasionally also with a few single stamens
91. Carpels 3
92. Flowers on slender stalks
93. Leaves flat or with somewhat recurved margins
94. Erect or weeping shrub 0.5–1.5 m high. Leaves with  
 short curled hairs ..... **H. racemosa** (Dongara variant)  
 94. Prostrate or sprawling shrub. Leaves glabrous or with straight hairs ..... **H. racemosa**

93. Leaves sub-terete, glabrous ..... **H. hibbertioides** var. **pedunculata**
92. Flowers sessile or almost so
95. Leaf surface glabrous or almost so, margins conspicuously fringed in *H. vaginata*
96. Bracts conspicuous, broad, often fairly rigid or chartaceous
97. Apex of sepals acute ..... **H. notibractea**
97. Apex of sepals obtuse to emarginate
98. Leaves terete to semi-terete, tipped by tiny curled hairs ..... **H. acrotrichion**
98. Leaves flat, glabrous
99. Stamens 2.5–4 mm long, anthers oblong to elliptic and apiculate .... **H. chartacea**
99. Stamens 1.5–2.5 mm long, anthers oblong to obovate and obtuse to truncate
100. Bracts more or less circular, 2–3 mm wide, obtuse or apiculate ..... **H. pulchra** var. **pulchra**
100. Bracts ovate to elliptic, 1–1.3 mm wide, more or less acute ..... **H. pulchra** var. **acutibractea**
96. Bracts inconspicuous, not rigid or chartaceous
101. Leaf margins closely revolute to midrib so that lower leaf surface appears 2-grooved, the leaf tip recurved
102. Leaves linear and straight ..... **H. rupicola**
102. Leaves very narrowly triangular, and somewhat sigmoid ..... **H. hamata**
101. Leaves terete, thick with somewhat recurved margins or flat, but not with margins revolute to midrib
103. Leaves flat or flattened, not terete
104. Floral and stem leaves different, stem leaves narrow; floral leaves broader ovate to elliptic
105. Leaf margins long-fringed. Floral leaves 15–20 mm long. Flowers 15–30 mm in diameter ..... **H. vaginata**
105. Leaf margins entire or very minutely ciliolate. Floral leaves 3.5–10 mm long. Flowers 8–15 mm in diameter ..... **H. glomerata** subsp. **ginginensis**
104. Floral and stem leaves all similar, narrow
106. Stamens 15–20. Sepals and leaf bases usually conspicuously fringed ..... **H. sp. Warradage**
106. Stamens 8–12. Sepals and leaf bases glabrous
107. Leaves dilated and somewhat stem-clasping at base, narrowly oblong to linear ..... **H. subvaginata**
107. Leaves not dilated at base not or scarcely stem-clasping, oblong to narrowly oblong
108. Leaves oblong to elliptic, thin, truncate, often with minutely recurved centre, midrib not enlarged and blade broad
109. Leaves oblong to oblong-elliptic ..... **H. glomerata** subsp. **darlingensis**
109. Leaves ovate to elliptic, occasionally with elongated basal leaves ..... **H. glomerata** subsp. **ginginensis**
108. Leaves linear, thick, apex obtuse, lower surface with much enlarged midrib and with very narrow blade ..... **H. pulchra** var. **crassinervia**
103. Leaves slender, more or less terete, usually tapered towards tip
110. Sepals obtuse or with very small soft point
111. Leaves 3–12 mm long. Staminal filaments of fascicles, fused for two-thirds their length ..... **H. hemignosta**

- 111. Leaves 10–22 mm long. Staminal filaments fused for up to half their length ..... **H. hibbertioides** var. **meridionalis**
- 110. Sepals with conspicuous soft awn-like tip .... **H. hibbertioides** var. **hibbertioides**
- 95. Leaves hairy, at least towards the base, not glabrous with a conspicuously fringed margin
- 112. Sepals glabrous or with sparse hairs only
- 113. Bracts inconspicuous. Sepals obtuse to subacute
- 114. Leaves alternate, not clustered, oblong-elliptic ..... **H. priceana**
- 114. Leaves clustered, linear
- 115. Anthers narrowly oblong, 1–2 mm long. Sepals obtuse ..... **H. desmophylla**
- 115. Anthers narrowly obovate, 0.7–0.8 mm long. Sepals obtuse to sub-acute ..... **H. helianthemoides**
- 113. Bracts conspicuous. Sepals acute
- 116. Leaves with a short blunt mucro. Bracts narrowly triangular ..... **H. fitzgeraldensis**
- 116. Leaves obtuse. Bracts broadly elliptic, rigid ..... **H. notibractea**
- 112. Sepals with dense silky hairs
- 117. Leaves flat or only very slightly recurved margins. Stamens 11 in 3 fascicles each of 3 stamens and 2 single stamens ..... **H. trichocalyx**
- 117. Leaves with recurved margins. Stamens 25–30 in 5 fascicles each of 4–6 stamens ..... **H. sp. Gnangara**
- 91. Carpels 5
- 118. Leaves spine-tipped ..... **H. exasperata** group
- 118. Leaves not spine-tipped, sometimes with a soft point
- 119. Leaves flat or with slightly recurved margins
- 120. Sepals glabrous
- 121. Leaves broad, obovate to elliptic, 20–30 mm long, entire or distantly and shallowly toothed. Stamens 15–25. Bracts absent or inconspicuous ..... **H. cuneiformis**
- 121. Leaves narrowly oblong, entire, 15–20 mm long. Stamens 15. Flowers surrounded by 2 or 3 conspicuous bracts ..... **H. glabrisepala**
- 120. Sepals with dense long hairs
- 122. Leaves more or less glabrous. Sepals with long pilose hairs only ..... **H. glomerosa** var. **glomerosa**
- 122. Leaves shortly felted. Sepals with short and long hairs .. **H. glomerosa** var. **bistrata**
- 119. Leaves with strongly recurved margins
- 123. Sepals silky-hairy with brownish hairs. Bracts conspicuous ..... **H. ferruginea**
- 123. Sepals glabrous or thinly hairy with white to grey hairs. Bracts inconspicuous
- 124. Leaves with terminal tuft of hairs. Sepals 3.5–6 mm long, shortly acute **H. depressa**
- 124. Leaves lacking terminal hair tuft. Sepals 6–17 mm long, long-acute
- 125. Leaves glabrous. Sepals 10–17 mm long ..... **H. huegelii**
- 125. Leaves densely hairy. Sepals 6–12 mm long ..... **H. pachyrrhiza**



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